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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 09118 271400Z
ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 ONY-00 /022 W
----------098096 271408Z /45R
R 271225Z JUN 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4336

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FOR NEA/RA HOLLY FROM BLOCK

E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS;: IN, EALB
SUBJECT: INDIAN PARTICIPATION IN FIET AND RCIA CONVENTIONS

REF: STATE 141316

1. THERE ARE TWO BASIC PROBLEMS IN THE INTUC'S RELATIONS WITH FIET AND THE RCIA, WHICH EMERGED FROM A JUNE 24 CONVERSATION WITH INTUC ASSISTANT SECRETARY RAM LAL TAKAR. FIRST, HE COMPLAINED ABOUT THE FAILURE OF BOTH ORGANIZATIONS TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL BANK EMPLOYEES CONGRESS (INBEC) WHICH APPLIED FOR AFFILIATION TO FIET TWO YEARS AGO. THAKAR CLAIMED THAT THE APPLICATION HAS NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BECAUSE OF FIET'S RELATIONS WITH HE ALL-INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES FEDERATION, HEADED BY V. N. SEKHRI. HE SAID THAT THIS ORGANIZATION HAD LOST ALL ITS STENGTH AND ARGUED THAT THERE WAS NO REASON FOR ITS CONTINUED AFFILIATION TO FIET. THAKAR STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE RCIA'S ESTABLISHING CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE INBEC, WHICH HE CLAIMED WAS THE LARGEST BANK EMPLOYEES UNION IN INDIA AND A BULWARK AGAINST THE CPI CONTROLLED ALL-INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION.
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2. THE SECOND PROBLEM CONCERNS INTUC'S ROLE IN THE ALLOCATION OF INTERNATIONAL INVITATIONS. THE INDIAN NATIONAL COMMERCIAL AND SALARIED EMPLOYEES FEDERATION IS AN INTUC AFFILIATE, AND ITS GENERAL SECRETARY, J. S. COUTINHO, IS IN GOOD STANDING WITH INTUC. HOWEVER, INTUC BELIEVES THAT IT, RATHER THAN FIET OR THE RCIA. SHOULD DECIDE WHO WILL

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RECEIVE INTERNATIONAL INVITATIONS. SINCE COUTINHO HAS
AALREADY ATTENDED SEVERAL FIET MEETINGS, THE INTUC BELIEVES THAT
SOMEONE ELSE SHOULD HAVE GHE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THE
JULY CONFERENCES.

3. THAKAR SAID THAT THE INTUC WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH
COUTINHO'S ATTENDING THE FIET CONFERENCE BUT OBJECTS
MORE STRONGLY TO HIS PROCEEDING TO THE RCIA MEETING AS AN
INTUC REPRESENTATIVE. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INTENTION ON THE
PART OF THE INTUC TO EMBARRASS COUTINHO.

4. ACCORDING TO THAKAR, A FIET REPRESENTATIVE VISITED
INDIA SEVERAL MONTHS AGO (HE COULD NOT RECALL THE NAME) AND MET
WITH INTUC GENERAL SECRETARY RAMANUJAM. THAKAR THOUGHT
THAT THESE PROBLEMS HAD BEEN RESOLVED, WHICH IS NOW
CLEARLY NOT THE CASE.GOHEEN

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